

Appln. No. 10/650,662
Preliminary Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): For use with a marine terminal crane at a dockside pier, a system for transferring loaded containers to a ship alongside of said dockside pier by use of motorized vehicles comprising:

a platform positioned on the dockside pier in underlying relation to the crane onto which ~~each of the~~ a container[[s]] is transported by ~~one of the~~ a motorized vehicle[[s]];

unitary reception means on the platform for receiving and adjusting a position of each of the vehicle[[s]] with the container thereon relative to the platform so as to maintain an aligned position with the crane ~~in said underlying relation to the crane at the dockside pier;~~

positioning means for displacement of the unitary reception means ~~on the platform~~ relative to the ~~crane~~ platform in two 90° related directions; and

sensing means mounted on the platform for ~~locationally detecting movement~~ a position of the container[[s]] relative to the ~~crane~~ platform and directionally controlling said displacement of the unitary reception means with the vehicle with the container[[s]] thereon to maintain the aligned position with ~~by positioning into operative alignment below~~ the crane to accommodate said transferring of the container by the crane from the platform to the ship.

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Claim 2 (Currently amended): The system as defined in claim 1, including: a wheeled frame on which the unitary reception means is mounted; and ramp means hingedly connected to the frame for drive on of the vehicle[[s]] with the container onto the platform and departure with the container[[s]] unloaded therefrom.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The system as defined in claim 2, wherein said positioning means includes: pairs of ball screw drive devices connected to the unitary reception means to impart said displacement thereto in the two 90° related directions.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The system as defined in claim 3, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates fixed to the ~~wheeled~~ frame; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid operatively connected to the ball screw drive devices through which detection of said movement of the container[[s]] is effected.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid through which detection of said movement of the container is effected.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The system as defined in claim 1, wherein said positioning means includes: pairs of ball screw drive devices connected to the unitary reception means to impart said displacement thereto in the two 90° related directions.

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Claim 7 (Currently amended): The system as defined in claim 6, wherein said sensing means includes: laterally spaced pairs of support plates; and sensor elements mounted on said plates and interconnected to form a sensing grid connected to the ball screw drive devices through which detection of said movement of the container[[s]] is effected.

Claim 8 (New): The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the platform comprises a transportable wheeled platform and the platform is independent of the crane.

Claim 9 (New): The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the reception means comprises a unitary table.

Claim 10 (New): A system for transferring shipping containers comprising:

- a platform positioned underneath a marine terminal crane and configured to receive a motorized vehicle transporting a container on an upper surface of the platform;
- a first movable unitary table on the upper surface of the platform configured to receive a first portion of the vehicle and adjust a position of the vehicle relative to the platform so as to maintain an aligned position with the crane,
- a first drive system connected to the first table configured to displace the first table relative to the platform in two orthogonal directions; and
- a sensor mounted on the platform configured to detect a position of the container relative to the platform and control the displacement by the first drive system of the first table to maintain

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the aligned position with the crane to accommodate transfer of the container from the platform to the crane.

Claim 11 (New): The system of claim 10 further comprising:

a second movable unitary table on the upper surface of the platform configured to receive a second portion of the vehicle and adjust a position of the vehicle relative to the platform so as to maintain an aligned position with the crane,

a second drive system connected to the second table configured to displace the second table relative to the platform in two orthogonal directions; and

wherein the sensor is configured to control the displacement by the second drive system of the second table to maintain the aligned position with the crane to accommodate transfer of the container from the platform to the crane.

Claim 12 (New): The system of claim 11 wherein the platform comprises a transportable wheeled platform and the platform is independent of the crane.